CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for the treatment or prevention of alveolar destruction in a mammal comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of an RAR β antagonist having RAR specific modulating activity.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises said RARβ antagonist in dissolved form.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

7. The composition of claim 5 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

8. The composition of claim 5 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

9. An aerosol for pulmonary delivery of a pharmaceutical composition, said pharmaceutical composition comprising an RAR β antagonist having specific RAR modulating activity.

10. The aerosol of claim 9 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

11. The aerosol of claim 9 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

12. The aerosol of claim 9 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

13. A method for the treatment or prevention of alveolar destruction in a mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an RAR β antagonist specific RAR modulating activity to said mammal.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein said composition is administered in the form of an inhalant.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

21. A method to increase the gas-exchange surface area of a mammalian lung in a mammal in need thereof comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an RAR β antagonist having specific RAR modulating activity to said mammal.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

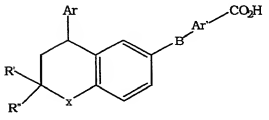
25. The method of claim 21, wherein said composition is administered in the form of an inhalant.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARγ.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein said RARβ antagonist is not specific to RARα or RARγ.

29. The RARβ antagonist of any of the foregoing claims, comprising the structural formula:



wherein

a) X is selected from the group consisting of CR_2, O, S, and NR;

b) R' and R'' are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and lower alkyl;

c) Ar and Ar' are each independently a single ring aryl moiety; and

d) B is selected from the group consisting of --CR'CH--, --CHCR'--, --COO--, --OOC--; --COHN--; --NHOC--; --CSHN--; and --NHSC--.

30. The RARβ antagonist of claim 29 wherein Ar and Ar' are each independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, furyl, thienyl and pyridyl groups.